

II.           Remarks

To highlight the distinction of the above referenced invention over the prior art as interpreted by the Examiner in the Office Action of May 24, 2007, Paper No. 20070517, Claims 25 and 26 were amended as set forth herein. Claims 25 and 26 now more clearly define the subject matter of the invention and place all of the claims remaining in the application in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 25 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner considered the recitation of the limitation “said seal” in lines 1 and 2, to be unclear. Further, with respect to Claim 26, the Examiner considered the recitation of the relational inner diameters to be contradictory to one another.

As noted above, Claim 25 has been amended to reflect that the reference to “said seal” clarifies the relationship to Claim 1, at line 12, as submitted in the amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.173(b). Note that independent Claim 21 recites an element “a seal disposed between . . .” as well as an element “a circumferential seal disposed within . . .”. To make it absolutely clear that the appropriate seal referred to in Claim 25, Claim 25 has been amended so that “said seal” refers specifically to the seal disposed between the annular flange of the male conduit and the inner surface of the receiver block.

With regard to Claim 26, the claim has been amended to reflect that the inner diameter of the conduit portion located within the end form block and receiver block is not smaller than

that portion of the male conduit inner diameter which extends from the end block. In other words, the inner diameter is not constricted (narrowed) for the portion contained within the end form block and receiver block. Therefore, flow through the conduit will not be affected by a constriction of the inner diameter.

It is believed that the amendments to Claims 25 and 26 overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and since the Examiner indicated in the Office Action that Claims 1-24 were allowed, all of the claims remaining in the application are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be passed on to issue.

If the Examiner has any questions with respect to any matter now of record, Applicant's attorney may be reached at (586) 739-7445.

Respectfully submitted,

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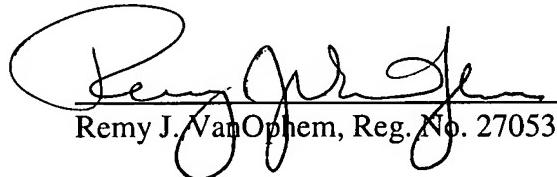
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on August 24, 2007.

Date: August 24, 2007



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